

10/529764
JC17 Rec'd PCT/PTO 30 MAR 2005AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-12 (cancelled)

13. (new) Vesiculated polymer particles characterised in that they include particulate solids and have associated with the surfaces thereof, long chain aliphatic chemical groups and/or sterically hindered, branched, chained chemical groups which are hydrophobic in nature and include at least fourteen carbon atoms.

14. (new) Vesiculated polymer particles according to claim 13 characterised in that the chemical groups include at least one polymerisable carbon - carbon double bond with linear, branched or cyclic moieties having at least fourteen but fewer than twenty five carbon atoms, including but not limited to : Lauryl methacrylate; Acrylated castor oil; Acrylated ricinoleic acid; Methacrylated ricinoleic acid; Soya Bean Oil; Unsaturated fatty acids, e.g. Oleic acid, tallow fatty acid; Unsaturated fatty alcohols, e.g. Oleyl alcohol, pentadeca-12-ene-1-ol.; Oleamide; Triglycerides, e.g. tall oil, tinging oil; Ethylenic unsaturated urethanes; Acrylic unsaturated urethanes; Air drying short oil alkyds; Alkyl and Aryl Esters of maleic anhydride, singly or in combination.

15. (new) A raw material composition for manufacture of vesiculated particles according to claim 13 characterised in that it includes a carboxylic acid functional, free-radical

polymerisable polyester resin, a co-reactive diluent monomer and

a modifying co-monomer, the modifying co-monomer including at least one polymerisable carbon - carbon double bond with linear, branched or cyclic moieties having at least fourteen carbon atoms, including but not limited to :

Lauryl methacrylate; Acrylated castor oil; Acrylated ricinoleic acid; Methacrylated ricinoleic acid; Soya Bean Oil; Unsaturated fatty acids, e.g. Oleic acid, tallow fatty acid; Unsaturated fatty alcohols, e.g. Oleyl alcohol, pentadeca-12-ene-1-ol.; Oleamide; Triglycerides, e.g. tall oil, tung oil; Ethylenic unsaturated urethanes; Acrylic unsaturated urethanes; Air drying short oil alkyds; Alkyl and Aryl Esters of maleic anhydride, singly or in combination.

16. (new) Vesiculated polymer particles manufactured using raw material according to claim 15 characterised in that the modifying co-monomer comprises 3 to 20% by mass of the reactive diluent monomer.

17. (new) Vesiculated polymer particles according to claim 16 characterised in that the modifying co-monomer comprises 5 to 9% by mass of the reactive diluent monomer.

18. (new) Vesiculated polymer particles according to claim 15 characterised in that the diluent monomer comprises ethylenic, acrylic and methacrylic functional monomers, singly or in combination.

19. (new) Vesiculated polymer particles according to claim 18 characterised in that the diluent co-monomers comprise styrene, butyl acrylate, methyl methacrylate, singly or in combination.

20. (new) A method of manufacture of vesiculated particles according to claim 13 in which control of the particle size is achieved chemically, characterised in that it includes the steps of:

- pre-dispersing pigment particles in a polyester;
- dissolving the pre-dispersed pigment-polyester in a suitable mixture of diluent monomer and hydrophobic co-monomer in the presence of a water-soluble base;
- forming a stable emulsion of droplets of solution of the pre-dispersed pigment-polyester and monomer (oil phase) in water; and

polymerising the polyester and co-polymerisable monomer thereby producing granules of opaque, cross-linked vesiculated particles as a dispersion in water, the particles including hydrophobic groups associated with their surfaces.

21. (new) A method of manufacture of vesiculated particles according to claim 13 characterised in that it includes the steps of :

- pre-dispersing pigment particles in a polyester;
- dissolving the pre-dispersed pigment-polyester in a suitable monomer in the presence of a water-soluble base;
- forming a stable emulsion of droplets of solution of the pre-dispersed pigment-polyester and monomer (oil phase) in water;

- adding a hydrophobic monomer; and

polymerising the polyester and co-polymerisable monomer thereby producing granules of opaque, cross-linked vesiculated particles as a dispersion in water, the particles including hydrophobic groups associated with their surfaces.

22. (new) A method of manufacture of vesiculated particles according to claim 20 characterised in that the base comprises a polyamine.

23. (new) A method of manufacture of vesiculated particles according to claim 22 characterised in that the base comprises diethylenetriamine.

24. (new) A raw material composition for manufacture of vesiculated particles according to claim 14 characterised in that it includes a carboxylic acid functional, free-radical polymerisable polyester resin, a co-reactive diluent monomer and

a modifying co-monomer, the modifying co-monomer including at least one polymerisable carbon - carbon double bond with linear, branched or cyclic moieties having at least fourteen carbon atoms, including but not limited to :

Lauryl methacrylate; Acrylated castor oil; Acrylated ricinoleic acid; Methacrylated ricinoleic acid; Soya Bean Oil; Unsaturated fatty acids, e.g. Oleic acid, tallow fatty acid; Unsaturated fatty alcohols, e.g. Oleyl alcohol, pentadeca-12-ene-1-ol.; Oleamide; Triglycerides, e.g. tall oil, tinging oil; Ethylenic unsaturated urethanes; Acrylic unsaturated urethanes; Air drying short oil alkyds; Alkyl and Aryl Esters of maleic anhydride, singly or in combination.

25. (new) Vesiculated polymer particles according to claim 16 characterised in that the diluent monomer comprises ethylenic, acrylic and methacrylic functional monomers, singly or in combination.

26. (new) Vesiculated polymer particles according to claim 17 characterised in that the diluent monomer comprises ethylenic, acrylic and methacrylic functional monomers, singly or in combination.

27. (new) A method of manufacture of vesiculated particles according to claim 14 in which control of the particle size is achieved chemically, characterised in that it includes the steps of:

- pre-dispersing pigment particles in a polyester;
- dissolving the pre-dispersed pigment-polyester in a suitable mixture of diluent monomer and hydrophobic co-monomer in the presence of a water-soluble base;
- forming a stable emulsion of droplets of solution of the pre-dispersed pigment-polyester and monomer (oil phase) in water; and

polymerising the polyester and co-polymerisable monomer thereby producing granules of opaque, cross-linked vesiculated particles as a dispersion in water, the particles including hydrophobic groups associated with their surfaces.

28. (new) A method of manufacture of vesiculated particles according to claim 15 in which control of the particle size is achieved chemically, characterised in that it includes the steps of:

- pre-dispersing pigment particles in a polyester;
- dissolving the pre-dispersed pigment-polyester in a suitable mixture of diluent monomer and hydrophobic co-monomer in the presence of a water-soluble base;
- forming a stable emulsion of droplets of solution of the pre-dispersed pigment-polyester and monomer (oil phase) in water; and

polymerising the polyester and co-polymerisable monomer thereby producing granules of opaque, cross-linked vesiculated particles as a dispersion in water, the particles including hydrophobic groups associated with their surfaces.

29. (new) A method of manufacture of vesiculated particles according to claim 14 characterised in that it includes the steps of :

- pre-dispersing pigment particles in a polyester;
- dissolving the pre-dispersed pigment-polyester in a suitable monomer in the presence of a water-soluble base;
- forming a stable emulsion of droplets of solution of the pre-dispersed pigment-polyester and monomer (oil phase) in water;
- adding a hydrophobic monomer; and
polymerising the polyester and co-polymerisable monomer thereby producing granules of opaque, cross-linked vesiculated particles as a dispersion in water, the particles including hydrophobic groups associated with their surfaces.

30. (new) A method of manufacture of vesiculated particles according to claim 15 characterised in that it includes the steps of :

- pre-dispersing pigment particles in a polyester;
- dissolving the pre-dispersed pigment-polyester in a suitable monomer in the presence of a water-soluble base;
- forming a stable emulsion of droplets of solution of the pre-dispersed pigment-polyester and monomer (oil phase) in water;
- adding a hydrophobic monomer; and
polymerising the polyester and co-polymerisable monomer thereby producing granules of opaque, cross-linked vesiculated particles as a dispersion in water, the particles including hydrophobic groups associated with their surfaces.

31. (new) A method of manufacture of vesiculated particles according to claim 21 characterised in that the base comprises a polyamine.